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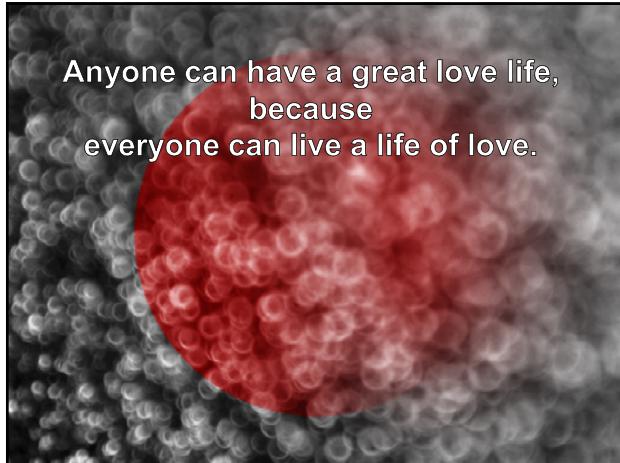
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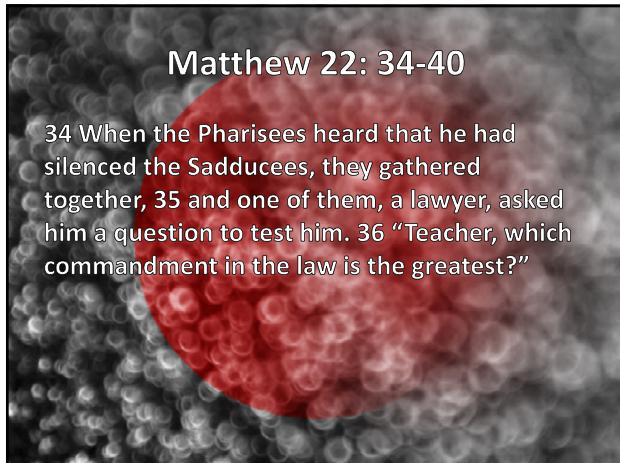
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## Matthew 22: 34-40

37 He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

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The two most difficult things to get straight in life are love and God. More often than not, the mess people make of their lives can be traced to failure or stupidity or meanness in one or both of these areas. The basic and biblical conviction is that the two subjects are intricately related. If we want to deal with God the right way, we have to learn to love the right way. If we want to love the right way, we have to deal with God the right way. God and love can't be separated.

*— Eugene Peterson*

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## Four Ultimate Questions

What is reality?

Who is well-off or blessed?

Who is truly a good person?

How does one become a truly good person?

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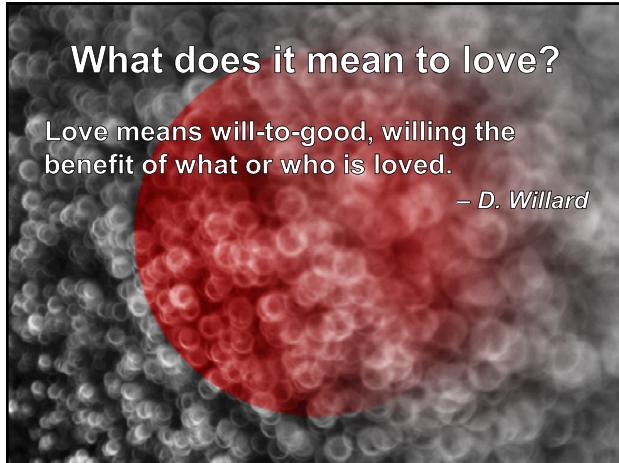
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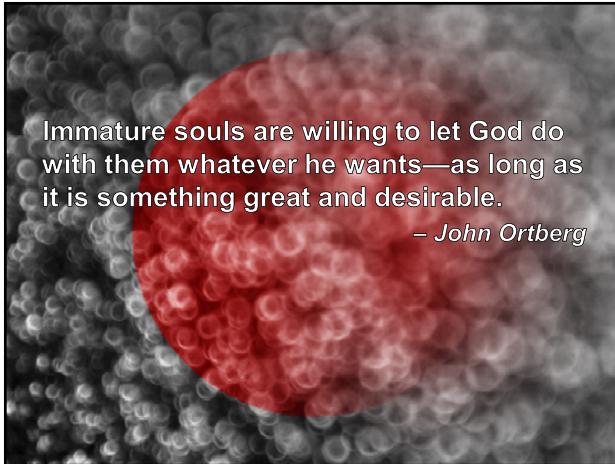
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Immature souls are willing to let God do with them whatever he wants—as long as it is something great and desirable.

— John Ortberg

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### Obstacles to Loving Well

1. Our incessant tendency to “size one another up”
2. We desperately want to be well-liked

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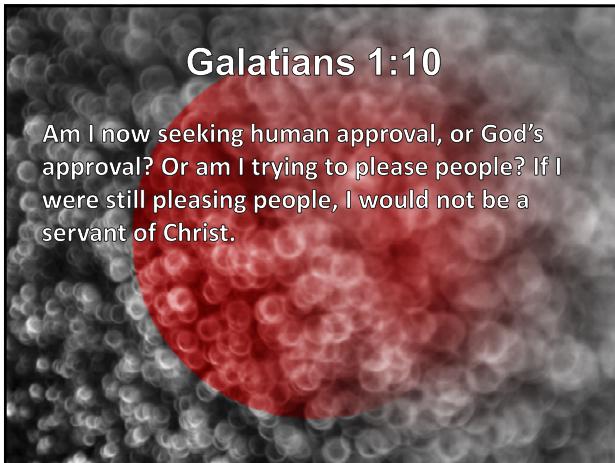
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### Galatians 1:10

Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

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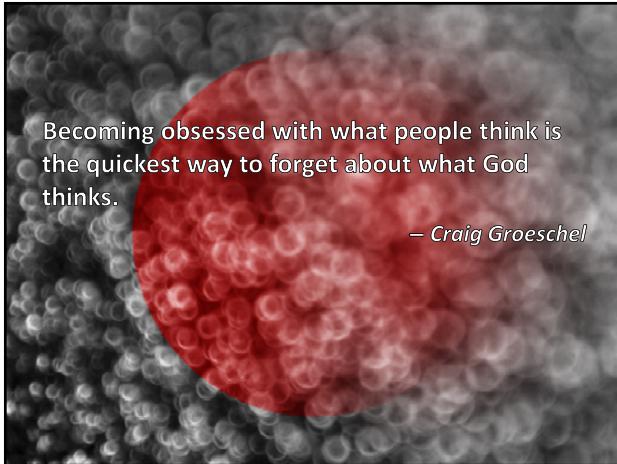
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Becoming obsessed with what people think is the quickest way to forget about what God thinks.

– Craig Groeschel

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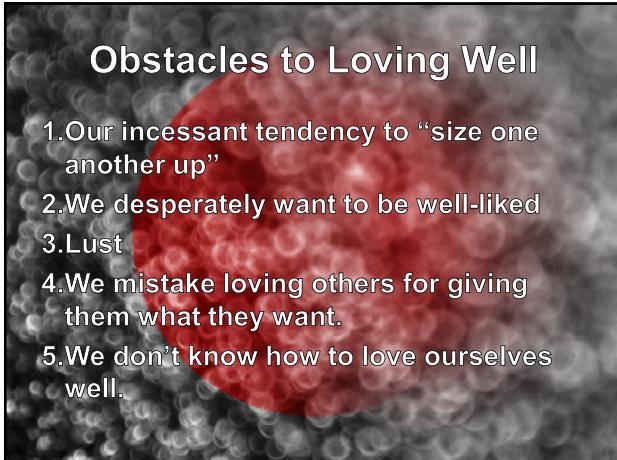
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### Obstacles to Loving Well

1. Our incessant tendency to “size one another up”
2. We desperately want to be well-liked
3. Lust
4. We mistake loving others for giving them what they want.
5. We don’t know how to love ourselves well.

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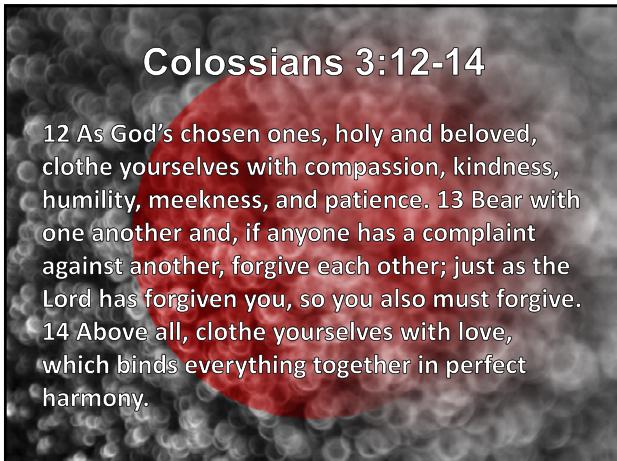
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### Colossians 3:12-14

12 As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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## How to Put Your Love Clothes On

1. Walk with Warmth.
2. Continually ask yourself: "Am I doing this as an act of love?"

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## 1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

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## How to Put Your Love Clothes On

1. Walk with Warmth.
2. Continually ask yourself: "Am I doing this as an act of love?"
3. Dwell deeply in the love of Christ.

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## NEXT STEPS

1. Identify the 2 or 3 people closest to you whom you can love.
2. Find a difficult person to help you grow (or just recognize someone as such).
3. What's one obstacle we discussed that prevents you from loving well?
4. What is one way you can put on love in a greater way?

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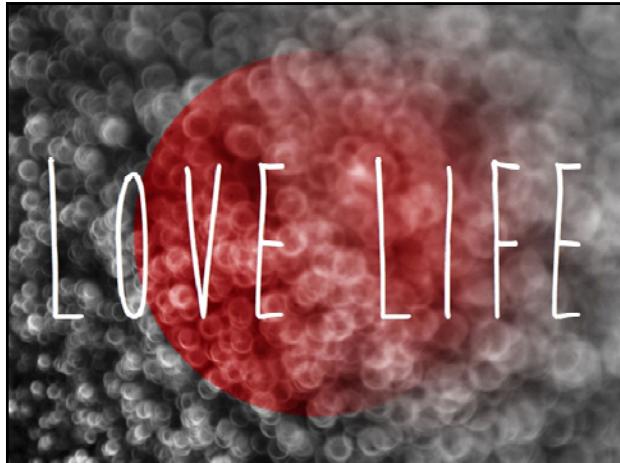
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